

The Development of Constitutional and Administrative Law in Latvia after the Restoration of Independence

Ringolds Balodis, Dr. iur.

Faculty of Law, University of Latvia
Professor at the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law
E-mail: Ringolds.Balodis@lu.lv

Annija Kārklīņa, Dr. iur.

Faculty of Law, University of Latvia
Associate professor at the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law
E-mail: Annija.Karklina@lu.lv

Edvīns Danovskis, Dr. iur.

Faculty of Law, University of Latvia
Lecturer at the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law
E-mail: Edvins.Danovskis@lu.lv

The given article presents a retrospective analysis of the most significant events in the area of constitutional and administrative law in the Republic of Latvia during its second period of independence. The authors of the article are experts in state law who have attempted to examine the events of the last 20 years objectively and independently. Separate events examined from the position of the existing legal reality have been viewed with different understanding of their contents. Although the article can be ranked as a survey study, it does not deliberately follow chronologically scrupulous division into specific stages that is a frequent feature in legal literature¹ because it is more important not to perceive certain occurrences *ad litteram* (Lat. – verbatim) but to understand the essence of processes from perspective of their use or *ad usum* (Lat. – for use, application). The present article should not be associated with the official position of the University of Latvia or Faculty of Law of the University of Latvia.

Keywords: the first independence period of Latvia, the second independence period of Latvia, occupation, Constitution, amendments to the Constitution, Constitutional Law of Latvia, Declaration of Independence of Latvia

Abbreviations used in the article:

SC – Supreme Court

CEC – Central Election Commission

EU – European Union

Declaration of Independence – Declaration of the Supreme Council of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic “On the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia”

CC – Constitutional Court

KGB – Committee for State Security

USSR – Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics

LSSR – Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic

Constitution – Constitution of the Republic of Latvia